

**Introduced by Senators Alquist, Figueroa, and Kehoe**  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bass, Berg, Karnette, Liu, Pavley,  
and Saldana)

January 19, 2006

Senate Joint Resolution No. 19—Relative to the 33rd anniversary of  
Roe v. Wade.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 19, as introduced, Alquist. Reproductive rights: Roe v. Wade.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President of  
the United States to protect and uphold the intent and substance of the  
United States Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, relating to  
reproductive rights.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, January 22, 2006, is the 33rd anniversary of the  
2 historic United States Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade  
3 (1973) 410 U.S. 113, guaranteeing women's reproductive rights,  
4 an occasion deserving of celebration and special public  
5 commendations; and  
6 WHEREAS, The 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade established  
7 constitutionally based limits on the power of states to restrict the  
8 right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy; and  
9 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade is one of the most significant  
10 Supreme Court decisions in the 20th century promoting women's  
11 rights; and  
12 WHEREAS, Reproductive rights are central to the ability of  
13 women to exercise their full rights under federal and state law;  
14 and

1 WHEREAS, It is the right of every American woman to  
2 determine when, if, and with whom to have children, and how  
3 many children to have; and

4 WHEREAS, Women's ability to control their reproductive  
5 lives has facilitated their equal participation in the economic and  
6 social life of the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The state should not interfere with a woman's  
8 decision to either bear a child or terminate a pregnancy through a  
9 safe and legal abortion; and

10 WHEREAS, Women should not be forced into illegal and  
11 dangerous abortions, as they often were prior to the Roe v. Wade  
12 decision; and

13 WHEREAS, During the first half of the 20th century, illegal  
14 abortions accounted for about 50 percent of all maternal deaths;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade has significantly reduced the  
17 mortality rate for women terminating their pregnancies; and

18 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade continues to protect the health and  
19 freedom of women throughout the United States; now, therefore,  
20 be it

21 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
22 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
23 memorializes the Congress and the President of the United States  
24 to protect and uphold the intent and substance of the 1973 United  
25 States Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of Senate transmit copies of this  
27 resolution to the President of the United States and to all  
28 Members of the Congress of the United States.